

Appl No. 10/717,775
Amdt. dated April 19, 2006
Reply to Restriction Requirement of March 20, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on March 20, 2006. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 4, 8-19, 27, and 31 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 20-26, 28-30, 32, and 37 remain pending.

The Examiner asserted that restriction to one invention is required under 35 U.S.C. §121. The Examiner identified two inventions, namely invention 1 corresponding to claims 1-32 and 37, and invention 2 corresponding to claims 33-36. Applicants hereby elect to prosecute invention 1, corresponding to claim 1-32 and 37, without traverse. Consequently, claims 33-36 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner further asserted that an election of a species is required under 35 U.S.C. §121. The Examiner identified two species, namely species 1 corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 2, and species 2 corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 3. Applicants hereby elect to prosecute species 2, corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 3, without traverse. Consequently, claims 4 and 8-19 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner further asserted that an election of a subspecies is also required. The Examiner identified four subspecies, namely subspecies 3 corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 4; subspecies 4 corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 5; subspecies 5 corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 6; and subspecies 6 corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 7. Applicants hereby elect to prosecute subspecies 5, corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 6, without traverse. Consequently, claims 27 and 31 are withdrawn from consideration.

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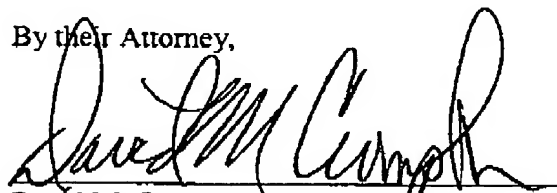
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Griego et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: 4/19/06



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